

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 091659Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DUBLIN 2182

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIALS IN DUBLIN DAILIES SEPTEMBER 9, 1977

FOLLOWING EDITORIALS APPEARED IN MORNING PAPERS IN RESPONSE
TO AMBASSADOR SHANNON'S SPEECH MADE AT US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1977.

CARTER EXPLAINED - IRISH INDEPENDENT

PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENT ON THE NORTH WAS WELL
AND TRULY PARSED AND ANALYSED BY HIS AMBASSADOR IN DUBLIN
MR. WILLIAM SHANNON YESTERDAY. SUCH AN EXAMINATION WAS
NEEDED BECAUSE TOO MANY PEOPLE HAD READ THE WRONG MEANINGS
INTO THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT, AND THERE WERE AS USUAL
TOO MANY PEOPLE MUTTERING ABOUT THE UNITED STATES TRYING TO
FORCE A SETTLEMENT OF SOME KIND ON THE NORTH.

MR. SHANNON MADE IT CLEAR WHY PRESIDENT CARTER WAS INTERESTED
IN IRELAND AND WHY HE WANTED TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF
WITH THOSE IRISH-AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS TRYING TO
WORK TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE NORTH'S
PROBLEMS. IT WAS A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT WHICH OUGHT
TO REMOVE SUSPICIONS.

PEACE IN THE NORTH CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE BOUGHT.
THEREFORE THE AMERICAN PROMISE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
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TO HELP THE NORTH ECONOMICALLY AFTER A PEACEFUL FORMULA
HAS BEEN FOUND IS NOT A BRIBE BUT RATHER AN INCENTIVE
TO THOSE MEN AND WOMEN, WHO WANT PEACE, TO KEEP ON
TRYING FOR IT. WHEN THE GUNS ARE PUT ASIDE THEN THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH CAN BE FRUITFULLY
TACKLED - AND WE ALL KNOW THAT THE NORTH REALLY NEEDS
HELP TO OVERCOME ITS HUGE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE UNIONISTS OF THE NORTH WILL HARDLY TAKE KINDLY TO THE STATEMENT THAT THE BRITISH ARE STILL TRYING TO RIGHT THE DISCRIMINATION OF THE PAST - FOR SOME OF THEM STILL APPEAR READY TO ARGUE THAT THE MINORITY NEVER SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE MAJORITY IN THE PAST 50 YEARS. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR WAS ONLY DEALING IN FACTS.

THEY WILL TAKE COMFORT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS NOT SEEKING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY PARTICULAR PLAN - SUCH AS POWER- SHARING BUT WAS, IN HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT, MERELY UNDERLINING HIS DEEP INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. POWER-SHARING WOULD SQUARE WITH THIS INTEREST.

THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH ALSO MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT SEEKING TO COME BETWEEN BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN THE JOINT SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE NORTH. IT IS KNOWN IN WASHINGTON THAT MR. LYNCH AND MR. CALLAGHAN HAVE YET TO GET TOGETHER - AND IT MUST BE KNOWN IN WASHINGTON TOO THAT THE COOL THOUGH POLITE RECEPTION CARTER'S ORIGINAL STATEMENT RECEIVED IN LONDON IS MORE THAN A HINT THAT THIRD PARTIES ARE NOT WELCOME BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

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HOWEVER, IT CAN ONLY BE FOR THE GOOD OF BOTH PARTS OF THIS COUNTRY THAT A COUNTRY AS POWERFUL AS THE UNITED STATES HAS ADOPTED A PUBLIC STANCE ON THE NORTH AND HAD INDICATED IN BROAD TERMS WHAT KIND OF SETTLEMENT WOULD BE PLEASING TO POLITICIANS AND PUBLIC IN AMERICA.

THE CARTER INDUSTRY - IRISH TIMES

THIS IS BECOMING RIDICULOUS. "THERE IS NO CARTER PEACE PLAN FOR THE NORTH," SAYS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND, MR. WILLIAM V. SHANNON. WE ALL KNEW THAT. AND THEN HIS EXCELLENCY PROCEEDS TO EXPAND AT SOME LENGTH ON THIS NON-PLAN, NON-DEMARCHÉ, NON-INSPIRATION.

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WEARIED PARTICIPANTS IN THE NORTHERN DEBATE HAVE
OFTEN SAID THAT, IF TALKING COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOLVED LONG AGO. WE NOW SEEM TO
BE INTO A ROUND IN WHICH THE ATTEMPT IS GOING TO BE
MADE.

IF THIS ALL SOUNDS GRUDGING ABOUT THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR, IT MUST BE SAID THAT THIS SPEECH WAS MADE
AT A LUNCHEON OF THE UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN IRELAND, THAT IT WAS HIS FIRST PUBLIC
SPEECH HERE, IN WHICH HE COULD HARDLY FAIL TO
RAISE THE MATTER, AND THAT THE AMERICAN STYLE IS TO
BE DISCURSIVE RATHER THAN BRIEF. IT MAY ALSO BE
SAID THAT, FAR FROM SETTLING SPECULATION, IT WILL
SEND THE WHOLE CARAVAN ROLLING MORE CRAZILY ALONG.

THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT CONFINE HIS REMARKS TO IRELAND
BUT LAUNCHED INTO A RATHER DISARMING AND INDEED
ALMOST LYRICAL ESSAY ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE; GAVE A
HARD PLUG FOR BRITAIN AS A ALLY IN TWO WORLD WARS AND
A PARTNER IN NATO; SAID FAREWELL TO DERRY, "OUR OLDEST
NAVAL BASE IN EUROPE," WHICH IS TO CLOSE AT THE END
OF THE MMONTH; GAVE US THE MIDDLE EAST AND RHODESIA, BUT
RETURNED TO THE NORTH.

ALL WARS COME TO AN END, HE TOLD US, ALL VIOLENT
QUARRELS ARE SOONER OR LATER COMPOSED. WHETHER THE
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NORTHERN SITUATION IS CALLED A WAR OR A QUARREL, IT HAS
BEEN GOING ON FOR, SOME WOULD SAY, OVER 300 YEARS;
MORE SIMPLISTIC PEOPLE WOULD SAY MAYBE 800.

TO POINT THIS OUT IS NOT TO COUNSEL DESPAIR, IT IS TO
ARGUE THAT A PURELY ECONOMIC CARROT IS A DOUBTFUL

INSTRUMENT FOR PEACE. AND THERE IS SOMETHING A BIT
BALD AND UNFEELING IN THIS INSISTENCE THAT NOT A
DOLLAR WILL BE PUT INTO IRELAND UNTIL THE FIGHTING STOPS.

SO ARE WE TALKING BUSINESS PURE AND SIMPLE? NOT
CIVIL RIGHTS, NOR MORAL STANDARDS, NOR PRESIDENT
CARTER'S DEEP PERSONAL INTEREST IN IRELAND? OF COURSE
NOT, BUT VERY DEEP RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
DIFFERENCES NEED TO BE HEALED; VIOLENCE IS ONLY THE
SYMPTON.

THERE IS SO MUCH OBVIOUS EARNESTNESS AND GOOD WILL
IN THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH THAT IT WOULD BE CHURLISH
TO QUESTION HIS MOTIVES OR HIS APPROACH. IT MAY BE
THAT HE IS BEING PURSUED BY US HERE TO EXPAND ON
SOMETHING THAT HARDLY EXISTS, AND THAT HE DOES NOT LIKE
TO DISAPPOINT. THE AMBASSADOR IS A FORMER JOURNALIST.
JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING LEADER-WRITERS) HAVE TO FILL SPACE.

ONE DANGER IS THAT TOO MUCH WRITING, TALKING AND HOPING
ON THIS SO-CALLED CARTER INITIATIVE WILL LEAD ONLY TO
DISAPPOINTMENT IF, IN THE END, LITTLE EVENTUATES.
PERHAPS IT IS THAT THE VOLUME OF TALKING AND WRITING
WILL MAKE SOME IMPRESSION ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
AND THAT MR. CARTER HAS INDEED INTERNATIONALISED
THE IRISH QUESTION ON THIS FLOOD OF WORDS. FOR THE
TIME BEING, WE ALL SEEM DETERMINED TO GIVE HIM THE
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